

Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

Mike's Thursday Mailbag
Dear Mike: I'm planning a trip to Hollywood this fall or winter, when your social season should be in full swing. It will be my first trip out there. Is there any chance of getting invited to one of those Hollywood parties I've been hearing

about all my life? — Dickie Hertell, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dickie: You stay right where you are. The "good old days" are gone and the wildest Hollywood party I've attended so far this year was Debbie Reynolds' coffee-and-cake cotil-

Dear Sir: Can't we have more movies that are strictly for entertainment, with no messages or social evils displayed? We've got enough grief in our daily lives without all this. People have been moving from the large cities to the suburbs to get away from as much that is sordid as possible — but now they're bringing it into our homes by TV! And if you go out to the movies it's just as bad. Do you agree? — Mrs. Richard C. Jordan, Havertown, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Jordan: I do indeed. And I have a suggestion.

If a sufficiently large slice of the population refuses to patronize such movies and dial in such TV shows, such shows will disappear from both the big and little screen. Altogether now — everybody ready? — dial OUT!

Dear Mike: Whatever happened to that lovely actress, Maggie McNamara? — Colleen Barnett, Randolph, Nebr.

Dear Colleen: She had a nervous breakdown back east, somewhat on the order of Gene Tierney's, but has just made a move in the right direction (as far as an acting career is concerned) — from Manhattan to Movieland. And this time, I hope, for keeps.

Dear Mike: Just what is a "Hollywood phony?" — Harry Dettinger, Walla Walla, Wash.
Dear Harry: From close observation, after 17 years on the beat, I would say that most of them come from the east, south, midwest and northwest. And I can't rightly pinpoint the reason for this phenomenon, unless it's because Movietown is a mecca for so many castoffs from the rest of the country. Suggested reading: Nathaniel West's "Day of the Locust."

Dear Mr. Connolly: Why does Sterling Hayden hate Hollywood so much? I'm reading his biography, "Wanderer," and am agghast at the blast he takes at you-all, especially after the

money he made out there. — Geraldine Wolcott, New Canaan, Conn.

Dear Geraldine: I'm reading it too. I think the book's jacket blurb is the tipoff: "The testament of a man who has tasted all that our society calls success — and despises it." Anybody who can buy a seconer and join the Communist Party all on the same day, as Sterling says he did right out in print, must be offbeat. Oh, well, maybe he'll be a successful writer.

Dear Mike: What's the REAL lowdown on Jayne Mansfield and Mickey Hargitay? ARE they or AREN'T they, for pity's sake? — Barbara Reale, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Dear Barbara: They MUST be. They're in Dubrovnik right now, rushing through an Al Zugsmith movie with the crazy title of "Dog Eat Dog." And I do mean rushing, since their next baby is due in November.

Dear Mr. Connolly: My sister and I would like to know why "Wide Country," starring Earl Holliman and Andy Prine, is going off the air. It's our favorite show on TV. — Janice Wiginton, Hampton, Va.

Dear Janice: You aster and you didn't have enough fellow TV viewers who shared your opinion. So, when the

ratings dropped, the show was dropped.

Dear Mr. C.: I saw John Hodiak in an old Judy Garland movie on TV today. I like his acting and would like his picture but don't know how to contact him. Can you help me? — Kay Hanse, Peoria, Ill.

Dear Kay: That must have been a REAL oldie. John died on Oct. 19, 1955. If you still want a photo, you might try writing to his old studio, MGM, in Culver City, Calif.

(Mike Connolly welcomes all readers' questions, but due to the large volume of mail received, it may be some time before the answer to your question appears in his column.)

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TV CANDIDS by Terrence O'Flaherty

HOLLYWOOD—It seems unlikely that there is anything less interesting than what a television columnist did on his vacation. However, I tried to see if it was possible to do without television for a while. And, by golly, it was! Almost. Once I sneaked to the set in the middle of the night just to discover if I was missing anything. Janet Leigh was being interviewed by Johnny Carson. In color. As most everyone knows, Miss Leigh is a movie actress whose most memorable contribution to the medium was being stabbed in the shower by Tony Perkins during the first seven minutes of a film called "Psycho."

After listening to Miss Leigh speaking as herself for a while it occurred to me that Mr. Perkins performed a more notable public service than I had realized at the time. My only criticism was that he waited so long. Her conversation was as puerile as anything I have encountered since Florence Aadland told Paul Coates about her daughter's romance with Errol Flynn. "What is your new movie about?" asked Carson. This is usually a good safe question with movie stars. "It's a fun movie — a real fun movie," Miss Leigh said, glowing at all pores with ersatz excitement. "We had a fun time making it."

At this point I had to be dragged, screaming, into the back yard. Meanwhile, the following vital items have come to my attention: One half of Elizabeth Taylor is for sale but nobody seems to know which half — even though it would seem that such information is vital to the sale. I am referring to the television documentary titled "Elizabeth Taylor in London," which will be telecast by CBS on Oct. 6. The Chemstrand Corp. picked up the sponsorship for a reported \$600,000 and now wants to share Miss Taylor for a mere \$300,000.

NBC looked around for a suitable personality to put up against the lady and her travelogue. They decided on Willie Mays as the only one who stood a chance of out-drawing her at the TV box office. The program is a documentary titled "A Man Named Mays," produced by Lee Mendelson Productions. I'm betting on Mays.

The entire staff of the Judy Garland show has been axed starting just under Miss Garland and including her husband Sid Luft, who recently made headlines by trying to crawl back over the fence. Observers who predicted the tremulous star wouldn't be able to keep up the weekly TV pace shook their heads and looked wise, but the show will continue production with Norman Jewison at the head, plus writers Arne Sultan and Marvin Worth and an entire new staff. Their contracts are for eight shows.

If Miss Garland spins before the series is completed, CBS figures it will show what it has as "specials." The series premieres on Sept. 29.

Quote of the Season: "I think those whose television tastes are in the majority are really over-programmed. You can turn on the television set, particularly at prime time, and you may have a choice between a horse opera and an old movie—but these are all appealing basically to the same tastes and I think there is too much of it."

Will the television industry heed these words? Probably. They were spoken by the new FCC chief, E. William Henry.

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